

REMARKS

In this response, Applicants cancel claims 35 and 36, and add claims 37 through 39. Accordingly claims 37 through 39 are pending and under consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 37 through 39 are supported by the originally filed application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

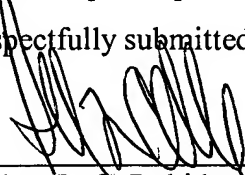
Claims 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,916,565, US 4,469,685, and JP 09-030977. In order to expedite prosecution in this matter, Applicants cancel claims 35 and 36. Applicants respectfully point out that claims 35 and 36 were subject to restriction in the parent application, now US 6,649,196, and thus the cancellation of this subject matter is without prejudice to Applicants' ability to file and obtain patent protection for claims directed to this subject matter in applications claiming priority to the present application under 35 U.S.C. §120.

New Claims

Applicants add claim 37 directed to the subject matter of originally filed claim 24 which was subject to a Restriction Requirement in the parent application, now US 6,649,196. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 37 is supported by originally filed claim 24 and, thus, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit the above Remarks and respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge patentability of pending claims 37 through 39. Applicants invite the Examiner to call their agent, Andrea L. C. Robidoux, at (617) 248-5124 with any questions pertaining to the above-identified application in order to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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